



BANK CARD TERMINAL COVER

Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part application of the application, Serial No. 09/131,352 filed 8/10/98, now abandoned; which is a continuation-in-part of the originally filed application entitled "Bank Card Terminal Cover", Serial No. 08/786,564, filed 01/17/97, now abandoned.

Background of the Invention

Field. This invention relates to covers. More particularly, it provides a crush resistant cover for a bank card terminal processing machine.

State of the Art. Numerous retailers utilize bank card processing terminals to pay for item sales. These bank card processing terminals are fairly sensitive to environmental hazards. They have card slots leading into the interior of the bank card terminal electronic circuitry to electronically read the information on the magnetic strips of customer bank cards. This information is then transmitted via cables operably associated with telephone lines leading to a main computer processor. These bank card processing terminals also include a key pad below a display screen to alternatively manually input a customer's bank card data and the amount of the sale. Presently there is no good protective device to prevent accidental contact damage to or environmental exposure of the bank card terminal. For example, some bank card terminal processing machines have a transparent plastic key pad cover covering the keys. These do not prevent dust, grime, grease, liquids, and food from accumulating in the card slot reader, causing damage to the electronics. These transparent plastic key pads become brittle and opaque through age and do not prevent damage to the terminals if accidentally hit by an object. Therefore, usage of these bank card terminal machines is generally restricted to a retailer's indoor office areas.

Other soft flexible plastic covers are used to cover the bank card terminal to prevent dust, grime, grease, liquids, and food from causing damage to the electronics. However, these soft plastic covers do not prevent accidental crushing of the bank card terminals.

One device, *Eppich* discloses an impervious modular crush resistant container into which electronic components are sealed therein to provide a rugged modular housing unit for protecting the electronic circuitry contained therein. As a sealed container, *Eppich* is unsuited for use as a bank card terminal container, which requires exposure of the internal circuitry via a card slot to read the magnetic strips of bank cards inserted therein. *Eppich* also does not shield the

Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 illustrates a perspective view of one preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 illustrates a rear view of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 2a illustrates a top view of a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2b illustrates a rear view of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 2a.

Fig. 2c illustrates front view of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 2a.

Fig. 2d illustrates a side view of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 2a.

Fig. 2e illustrates a side view of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 2a mounted on a vertical support surface.

Fig. 3 illustrates another preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 4 illustrates another preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 5 illustrates another preferred embodiment of the invention.

Description of the Illustrated Embodiments

Fig. 1 illustrates the simplest embodiment of the invention 10 which comprises a transparent crush resistant terminal cover 12 with a top 14 and sides 16 defining an open bottom 18 structured and sized to fit over a bank card terminal processing machine. The cover 12 has hook and loop strips 17 attached to its underside, which adhere to corresponding hook and loop strips 17 attached to the top of the bank card terminal processing machine.

The cover 12 material is also resistant to liquids, dust, and grease. The sides 16 fit about and cover the bankcard terminal when placed over the terminal on a support surface. The sides 16 of the cover 12 contact the support surface to transfer the force from an accidental blow away from the bank card terminal and onto the support surface. The sides 16 have at least one opening 20 shown in Fig. 2 through which telephone terminal cords may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal.

To use this embodiment, the cover 12 is simply placed over the bank card terminal when not in use. To utilize the bankcard terminal, the cover 12 is removed to access the bankcard slot and keyboard. If desired, a handle 22 may be included on the top 14 exterior of the cover 12 to aid in its removal to access the bank card terminal key pad and card slot.

The embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 2 are blow molded in a single piece made of rigid transparent nylon or plastic to enable visual inspection of the terminal displays. Fig. 2a illustrates a top view of a preferred embodiment of the invention. The cover 12 is a single piece of transparent plastic with the handle 22 incorporated in the single piece design. The rear of the cover 12 has an opening 20 shown in Fig. 2b through which terminal cords are connected to the bank card terminal. The front 23 of the cover 12 is shown in Fig. 2c. The top side 16 defines another power cord opening 20 and has a top 23 which gradually slopes upward toward the rear opening 20 as shown in Fig. 2c and 2d. Fig. 2e illustrates a side view of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 2a mounted on a vertical support surface.

Fig. 3 illustrates a cover 12 with hinges 24 which attach to a hinge mounting bar 26 attached to the top of the bank card terminal. It opens in a first mode to provide access to a